

New Boston Recreation Commission

Subject: Commissioners' Meeting
Date: May 22, 2012
Location: Old Engine House

Attendees:

Commissioners: Lee Brown, Kim Borges, Ken Hamel, David Hulick, Jen Martin

Staff: Mike Sindoni, Mary Manna*

Guests: Erica DeFilippo

* = *excused*

1. Volunteer of the Year.
 - a. Lee recommends Joe Borges this year for his support of sports programs this year and prior years. This proposal was accepted by the commissioners.
 - b. How should we solicit nominations next year? Nominations from commissioners, department, instructors, coaches and a notice in the *New Boston Bulletin*. The nominee should have an affiliation with the recreation department.
 - c. Award at cookout? Yes. Put the winner's name on a plaque and give them a gift certificate to a local business.
2. Baseball/Softball Fundraising results. Kim reported that the calendar raffle went well. There was good enthusiasm. Participation was close to 100%. Softball hit the target to get the field done. Baseball raised \$4,000 and softball raised \$2,600. The net was about \$5,000 after expenses. This worked much better than the homerun derby.
3. Slide replacement at the Old Coach playground. Replacement will be around \$3,000. The playground gets heavy use. The unit was about 12 years old. Lee will get an estimate. **A motion was made and approved to replace the slide using Friends of Rec money.**
4. Selectmen's Policy on Town Committees and Boards – Lee participated in the public hearing last evening. The commission makes recommendations to the selectmen for filling commissioner spots. Lee will distribute a copy of the commission charter for the board to review. The next town review of the policy is in 2 weeks.
5. Volunteer Appreciation night June 29th at 5:00pm – how to promote? Put signs up at ball fields. Send an email to the coaches and other Rec volunteers.
6. Friends of Recreation – status update. Kim spoke with Andrew French (softball coach) about reincorporating the Friends of Recreation. The registration fee will be \$300. It is expected that Friends will need 5 board members. There should be at least 1 commissioner on the Friends board. We need to set up the Friends charter, by-laws and also define how money will be raised and spent. Friends of Rec is also a good way to bring new people into Recreation activities.
7. White Buildings & the School Board – Cooperative approach to building improvements. The school board responded to our discussion at the school board in April. They do not expect to need the White Buildings next year. They voted to move ahead with renovations in conjunction with Rec. Mike and Lee met with Jude and Ray. The approach will be a joint agreement on the scope of the work that will include a payment formula. Projects could include handicap accessible bathroom, heating plant, insulation upgrades, windows, and flooring. We need to know what the school requires in order to use one of the buildings as a classroom. The school has a revolving account for improvement projects. Rec will present a proposal to the board on June 13 that describes what needs to be done. If and when the school makes another addition, the school board is on record that they will no longer need the White Buildings. Their planning horizon extends out as far as 10 years.
8. Erica DeFilippo. Working on a grant for the summer concert series. It is due in August. Also looking at a grant that would require the Friends of Rec. Looking at grant seminars in the fall.
9. Updates:
 - a. Summer Camp. Lost a staff person from last year. Mike has sufficient applicants from which to choose a replacement. The camp numbers are about at the same level as they

were last year at this time. A surge in registrations is expected after Memorial Day.

- b. NB's 250 year old celebration – Rec efforts. Lee participated in the meeting last week. What should Rec do? Kim commented that it is hard to get volunteers for new activities. The church will expand an existing activity like the chicken barbeque in September. Ideas: Movie night with cook-out? Enhance one of the concerts? Maybe have a concert on Sunday, July 7th and combine it with the volunteer cook-out. The 4th of July will be on a Thursday next year. Can we do something on an extended holiday weekend? The committee is looking for a pledge to do things like expand the fireworks. Invite a representative of the committee to come to one of the Rec meetings to explain what they want the money for.
- c. Rail to Trails. The conservation commission and others are working on permits to improve rail trail. The conservation commission has pledged \$25,000 and Erica is working on grant concepts. The budget, with all-volunteer labor, is \$46,000 for engineering, gravel, drainage, etc. The plan is an 8'-wide trail. Annual yard sale will be dedicated to the rails to trails project.
- d. Candidate A won the scholarship. All commissioners were in agreement.

10. New Business.

- a. Remind users of the softball field to rake it out after every use to keep the new base lanes intact.
- b. St. Josephs had their walk for hunger last week. The organization got its funding back from the county. Lee proposed that Rec write a letter in support of the county's effort. The commissioners agreed to this.
- c. June Hicks sent a message of appreciation for the tree and plaque at the ball field.
- d. Kim wants us to consider flag-football or lacrosse as new sports. A dynamic offering of sports will help us maintain local participation in sports. Maybe we could use grant money to acquire equipment.

11. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 18 at 7:00pm in the Old Engine House.

David Hulick, Secretary